

THE GARZETTE

W4GR

Volume 17, Issue 04

147.075+

444.525+5mhz

53.110 -1mhz

From the Presidents Mic!



QST! QST! de **WA4ZXV, Norm Schklar**

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Georgia QSO Party is just around the corner, April 12-13. The purpose of the State QSO Party is for amateurs outside of the state of Georgia to make contact with as many Phone and/or CW Georgia stations in as many of the 159 Georgia counties, as possible. Georgia stations work everyone on Phone, CW, or both modes. The GQP is conducted on 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, and 6m only.

GARS will be participating by operating a club station at the **Troop 54 Scout Hut**, 10 Victor Street, Lawrenceville, GA on the 12th and possibly we'll convince some of our hf mobile operators to help fill in some of the rare counties. A list of the rare counties is on the gqp.contesting.com web site. Take a look. You might be able to visit friends in those remote areas and help with the contest. We'll start assembling the stations about 11:00am on Saturday. The contest starts at 2:00 in the afternoon. If you come early, you can help install, or watch the install; of antennas and stations. You'll most likely see both portable vertical and wires. We hope to have enough equipment to allow working the contest as well as a station for rag chewing. This should be an excellent opportunity for new hams to get their hands on some HF equipment, or get their first taste of working a contest. This will also be an opportunity for some of our seasoned operators to put on a good demonstration while helping GARS build points in the contest. For those of you that might work the contest from home, be sure to give the GARS credit on your submitted log sheets.

It's been great to meet and speak with many of the **new Amateur Radio Operators**. It's a challenge to try to keep the conversation and meeting information meaningful for new as well as seasoned hams, but we try. If you're new and some of what we are presenting or speaking about seems a little strange, just ask. Generally, you'll not be the only one with questions, you'll just be the only one asking questions. Ask away!

As I looked around the last meeting and listened to introductions, I was amazed at the number of different organizations, clubs and services that were represented. We have contesters, rag chewers, emergency communications operators, administrative staff and **YOU**.

See you at the April 8 meeting!

73 es hp to cu sn de Norm, WA4ZXV

April 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 0730 breakfast
6	7 2000 2m net	8 1930 meeting	9 2100 6m net	10	11	12 0730 breakfast
13	14 2000 2m net	15	16 2100 6m net	17	18	19 0730 breakfast
20	21 2000 2m net	22	23 2100 6m net	24	25	26 0730 breakfast
27	28 2000 2m net	29	30 2100 6m net	MAY 1	2	3 0730 breakfast
4	5 2000 2m net	6	7	8	9	10

GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to ka4kkf@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding & labeling. Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, wa4zxv, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:
Newsletter Editor:

David Adcock ka4kkf
(770-271-9398)
ka4kkf@arrl.net

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048
Attn: Newsletter Editor

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org

First Saturday, Even Months

9:00AM
EOC Building
Butch Nitz, AF4FS
(770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7:00 PM
ARRL/VEC
Roberts School
4681 School Street,
Acworth
Jodi Escher AG4BK
770-387-1591

Second Tuesday

7:00PM
Walton EMC
3645 Lenora Church Rd,
Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA
(770) 498-7759

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC
8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist
Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Varone, W4ETN
(770) 978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
9:00AM
Marietta First United
Methodist Church Room 305,
56 Whitlock Ave
Marietta
David Still, WB4RRD
(770) 973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road,
Douglasville

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge
465 South Perry Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
770-963-5721

Fourth Sunday

2:30 PM
Georgia Tech Student Center
Room 301
David Ziskind, KE4QLH
(404) 966-6864

Metro Atlanta Club Meetings**First Tuesday**

Kennehoochee ARC
Southern Polytechnic
State University
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880 (-)

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical
Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820 (-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225 (+)
PL 123.0

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist Church
Intersection of Annistown Rd
& Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760 (-)

Third Tuesday

**North Fulton Amateur Radio
League**
Alpharetta EOC located at
2970 Webb Bridge Road, in Alpharetta
meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47 (-)

First Saturday

North GA QRP Club
Wieuca Baptist Church on
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

March, 2008 GARS General Meeting

March 11, 2008

The president, Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, called the meeting to order at 7:30. A thank you was extended to Will for his beginning class that concluded this past week with many people receiving their first ham licenses. Those new hams present were recognized. Our next operating event will be the Georgia QSO party on April 12 at the Scout lodge in Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville. Introductions of those present were made.

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA, program manager, introduced Arnold Solomon, KC4ZUA, who gave a very interesting program on the Strange Antenna Challenge.

Break

Norm announced that Joel Barrett, W4JOL, has accepted the position of net manager.

GARS is trying to start an Elmer program and is looking for someone to volunteer to be the committee chairperson. Additional volunteers are also needed to be Elmers. If you are interested, please contact any one of the club officers.

Dick Sandberg, N9SJX, is the new treasurer and the transition from the former treasurer is under way.

Committee Reports:

Program - the April program will be on ARES and the Official Observer Program.

Membership - the following were voted into full membership:

David Greene, KJ4CMV, technician,
Ardith Brackett, KJ4CMS, technician,
Renee Olson, KJ4CNA, technician
James Olson, KJ4CNC, technician
Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC, technician

There was not a repeater report.

Win Jackson, N1TWX, announced that a tech class was beginning on March 25 at Central Gwinnett High School.

The ham radio exam location is moving from the Five Forks Trickum Library to the Masonic Lodge in Lawrenceville beginning in April. Their next testing session will be April 20th. See the GARS website For more details.

The March of Dimes will be held at Lake Lanier - check the reflector for details.

A thank you card from BC&S Catering (the caterer for the Christmas party) was passed around.

The bylaw change was read and approved as printed in the *Garzette*. The club voted to sponsor two plaques for the Georgia QSO party. The cost is \$30 per plaque.

Prize drawing was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Prepared by Randy Collins, N4COR, secretary

?ELMER?

You've got your Technician License. Now what? What kind of radio do you buy? Do you need an HT or a mobile rig for you vehicle? Can one radio do both? How do you program it? Where do you use it? Where do you go to keep on learning? How do you get into HF?

The answer is an Elmer, someone who knows more about radio than you. Even those who've been a ham for only a few months know things a new licensee doesn't know. In fact, they may know what a new ham wants or needs to know. Things an older ham may not recognize as important or things they believe everyone already knows.

Some were fortunate to have an Elmer but most of us didn't. GARS wants to make it easier to learn more than just enough to get your license so we're going to revive the Elmer program - with a twist. Rather than one individual to teach all you don't know we want to call on the expertise of many of the hams in the club. Instead of one Elmer per new ham, we want a cadre of Elmers who may be knowledgeable in one or more areas and who will be willing to share that knowledge with others. For example, a new ham isn't taught how to put a connector on a piece of coax, but there are people in the club who can show you how. There are people who can help you built a dipole or a J pole antenna and probably have an analyzer (or know where to borrow one).

That's what we want the GARS Elmer program to become. One (or more) individual(s) who can direct a new ham to a club member that can help teach a skill. An Elmer doesn't have to know it all or even a lot. All that is required is to know who can help or who to call that may know who can help. So an Elmer will act as a conduit for information. If a new ham, or an older one, needs to know how to tune an antenna, the Elmer will know who to call. If someone wants to get into slow scan TV or PSK31 the Elmer knows how to get in touch with an individual or he knows who to call to ask about it.

So how can you help? If you're willing to be an Elmer let an officer know. The duties of an Elmer are:

- Make your phone number available to new hams

- Let the club secretary include your phone number in his correspondence with new hams

- Hook up new hams with veteran hams for specific projects

- Introduce yourself at meetings so folks know who you are

- Let the program manager know if you receive sufficient requests about a specific topic to warrant a program on that subject

So now you've got your license. What's next? Contact the GARS Elmer

Field Day 2008

Eligibility: Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

Object: To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

- **Date and Time Period:** Field Day is **always the fourth full weekend of June**, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday.
- **Field Day 2008 will be held June 28-29, 2008.**
 1. Class A and B (see below) stations that do not begin setting up until 1800 UTC on Saturday may operate the entire 27-hour Field Day period.
 2. Stations who begin setting up before 1800 UTC Saturday may work only 24 consecutive hours, commencing when on-the-air operations begin.
 3. No Class A or B station may begin their set-up earlier than 1800 UTC on the Friday preceding the Field Day period.

Entry Categories: Field Day entries are classified according to the maximum number of *simultaneously* transmitted signals, followed by a designator indicating the nature of their individual or group participation. Twenty (20) transmitters maximum are eligible for the purpose of calculating bonus points (2,000 points maximum). However, additional transmitters may be used simultaneously in determining your entry category. Switching and simulcasting devices are prohibited.

Bonus stations, such as the GOTA station and satellite station do not count towards determining the number of transmitters for the class and do not qualify for transmitter bonus points.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "But by the Sun-spark on the sea" Cook, K7RA, this week reports:

ARRL Headquarters is closed for Good Friday on March 21, so this bulletin is coming out a day early, and on the vernal equinox. We had a few more days with visible sunspots over the past week. Sunspot numbers on March 15-17 were 12, 12 and 11. Over the past month, we seem to have a single sunspot appear for a few days, then fade away or rotate out of view, then another pop up after four or five days. Projection for the near term is planetary A index of 5 for March 20-24, then 10, 20, 25, 20 and 8 for March 25-29. There are similar returns to planetary A index of 25 predicted for April 5, April 23 and May 2, but otherwise quiet.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions for March 21, quiet March 22-24, unsettled March 25 and active March 26-27.

For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page

<<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>.

To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>.

No Electronics Magazines? Think Again.

by
KB6NU

Many old-time ham radio operators grew up with magazines such as Popular Electronics, Electronics Illustrated, and Radio-Electronics. Sadly, these magazines are gone now, but there are still electronics magazines out there that can help you keep up with what's going on in electronics. These magazines are written for practicing electronics engineers, so many of the articles will not be relevant to amateur radio or written in such a way to be nearly incomprehensible to electronics hobbyists, but you can't beat the price. They're free!

The magazines I'm referring to are electronics engineering trade magazines. These magazines are sent out free to electronics engineers and others working in the industry, and are supported by the advertisers. You're not an electronics engineer? Don't worry. If you e-mail me, I'll tell you how you can qualify.

Let me give you an example of the good stuff you can find in these trade magazines. In the December 2007 issue of High Frequency Electronics (www.highfrequencyelectronics.com), there is an article titled, "Quartz Crystal Basics." Written by an engineer for a manufacturer of crystals, crystal oscillators, and crystal filters, this article describes how crystals are made and gives some tips on designing your own crystal oscillators.

Also in this issue is the article, "Power Combiners, Impedance Transformers, and Directional Couplers." This is the first of a series of articles to discuss these circuits. Amateurs frequently use transmission line impedance transformers (think baluns) to match an antenna system to the 50-ohm output of a transceiver.

The new products section includes items on RF parts and test equipment, as well as book reviews. You probably will not be purchasing the new Boonton 9103 7.5 GHz Portable Spectrum Analyzer (\$11,000 and up), but you might be interested in the book RF Circuit Design (\$41 at Amazon).

As you can see, there's plenty of useful and interesting information in these trade magazines. In addition to High Frequency Electronics, you may also want to check out:

- RF Design (www.rfdesign.com)
- Microwaves and RF (www.mwrf.com)
- EE Times (www.eetimes.com)
- EDN (www.edn.com)
- Test&Measurement World (www.tmworld.com, I used to write for this magazine)

If you don't care to sign up for the print version of the magazine, you can always visit their websites and sign up for their e-mail newsletters. These newsletters will keep you informed of new articles and product information on the websites. You can then choose which ones you want to read.

When he's not trying to get free subscriptions to electronics magazines, Dan blogs about ham radio (www.kb6nu.com), teaches others about ham radio, and is working to set up an amateur radio station at the Hands-On Museum (www.aahom.org) in Ann Arbor, MI. You can e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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For more information Visit
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or contact Ray Back:

Email crew73@gars.org
Phone (770) 295-9174

GARS Communication System

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
82.5 PL Tone

D-Star

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford

Goshen Springs Road,
Norcross

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Net Needs Net Control Operators!

If you would like to be net control and learn how to operate the net, contact Joel, W4JOL. We are looking for 2m and 6 m net control operators to fill in the empty spaces in the rotation.

jobarret@cisco.com

STATION LOCATOR SERVICE NEW FOR FIELD DAY 2008

This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years.

If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>> and follow the instructions.

To help you out, Henderson has prepared a FAQ for the Field Day Station Locator.

GARS

APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

CALL: _____

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
T-SHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
GARS BADGE -- WITH name & call			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

TOTAL ORDER PRICE: _____

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:

GARS
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

Amateur Call Sign _____ License Class Novice Technician General
Advanced Extra

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____

Cell Telephone _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by: US Mail Email (please check only one)

Type of Membership

Individual \$30.00 annually
Student \$15.00 annually
Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)
Family ** \$35.00 annually

** Available for family members residing at the same address

Optional Contributions

Repeater Fund \$ _____

Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Additional Family Members **

Name _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

Applicant Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

GARS Appreciates these fine sponsors that support our great organization!

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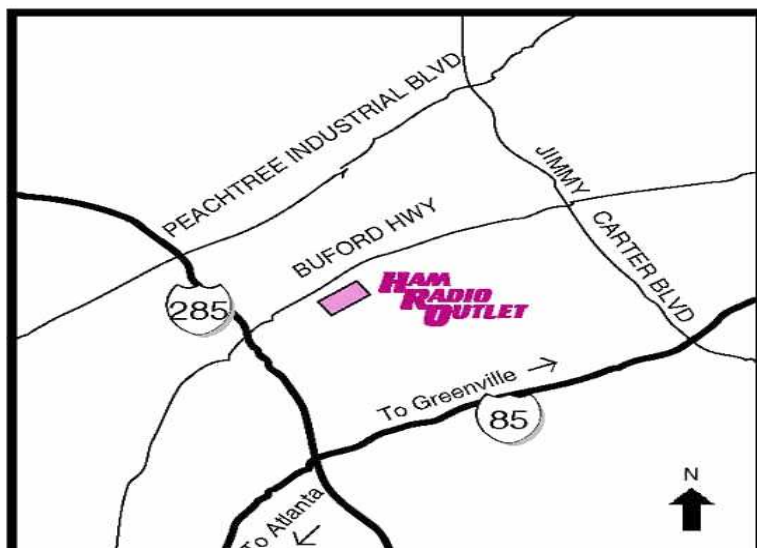
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Premier
Valor
Van Gorden

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact, please contact the membership chairman

Saturday Morning

Breakfast

Join us at the Golden Coral
on Riverside Drive in

Lawrenceville at 7:30 a.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 8th

The Meetings are on the
Second Tuesday of the
month 7:30pm at the
St Marguerite
D'Youville Church,

85 Gloster Rd NW,

Lawrenceville, GA 30044.
Just off Highway 29 SW
of Lawrenceville.

Directions on the Web
site.

<http://www.gars.org>

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**References available upon Request